

## ***THE RABBIT OF SEVILLE***

**TEACHERS:** It may be helpful to you to share appropriate versions of the songs listed below as you discuss "sampling," as well with any songs you prefer which demonstrate the concept. Playing the Overture to *The Barber of Seville* and the "Wedding March" will also help to prepare your class for the concert, in which they will see a rare live performance of *The Rabbit of Seville*.

"I Think I'm in Love with You" by Jessica Simpson—

"Jack and Diane" by John Mellencamp

"Gold Digger" by Kanye West—"I've Got a Woman" by Ray Charles

"Hard Knock Life" by Jay-Z—"Hard-Knock Life" from the musical *Annie*

Musicians use samples in their songs for different reasons—whether because they like a particular sound, want to use the same rhythmic idea, or want the listener to make a specific connection when the song is played. "Hard Knock Life" is a great example of this last concept.

Carl Stalling, who composed music for Looney Tunes, was miles ahead of them all! Stalling followed the lead of centuries of composers who referenced others' works. He never called it "sampling," but his version of the overture to *Barber*—which we know as *The Rabbit of Seville*—specifically borrows from Felix Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



### **QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION:**

Is this tune familiar? What do you think of when you hear it?

Why do you think Stalling might have inserted it into Rossini's overture?

How do you think it could affect the plot of the cartoon?